

Message Text

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42

ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 L-03 H-02 STR-04 /038 R

DRAFTED BY COM/BEWT/EE/MLLEVINE/BFC

APPROVED BY EB/OCA/CM/BEBYRON

COM/BEWT/EE/BR SARICH

COM/BEWT/OEWD/SRABRAHAMSON

COM/BEWT/OD/ATDOWNEY

STATE/EUR/EE/DMILLER (IN DRAFT)

----- 101366

R 082114Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

UNCLAS STATE 160333

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: BEXP, HU

SUBJECT: MEETING OF U.S. SIDE OF HUNGARIAN-U.S. ECONOMIC
--- COUNCIL

REF: BUDAPEST 2053

1. MEETING OF U.S. SIDE HUNGARIAN-U.S. ECONOMIC COUNCIL
TOOK PLACE JUNE 27 AT U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HEAD-
QUARTERS IN WASHINGTON. DAS DOWNEY DELIVERED BRIEF
OPENING REMARKS TO THIRTEEN MEMBERS PRESENT. JAMES R.
CARTER, CHAIRMAN OF NASHUA CORP., AND ORGANIZING CHAIRMAN
OF U.S. SIDE, PRESIDED.

2. MEETING APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN PURELY ORGANIZATIONAL IN
NATURE. AMERICAN SIDE ELECTED JAMES CARTER AS CHAIRMAN
AND THOMAS KISS (CPS), JACK JOHNSON (STEIGER TRACTOR),
VICTOR PRALL (FNCB), AND LAJOS SCHMIDT (BAKER AND
MCKENZIE) AS VICE-CHAIRMEN. GROUP LOOKS FORWARD TO
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VISITING BUDAPEST AND PREFERS NOVEMBER 10-11 AS DATES
FOR FIRST JOINT MEETING. GROUP ALSO DISCUSSED ITS
FINANCIAL BASIS AND OUTLINED MEMBERSHIP POLICIES.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY SCHMIDT TO SCREEN APPLICANTS (IN ORDER TO AVOID INTERMEDIARIES, TRADING COMPANIES, ETC.).

3. U.S. SIDE HOPES TO MAKE ITS VOICE FELT ON HILL IN LOW PROFILE WAY, THROUGH ITS MEMBERS (I.E. THOMAS KISS' SCHEDULED TESTIMONY BEFORE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE). ANOTHER GOAL SET BY COUNCIL IS POOLING OF CORPORATE EXPERIENCE IN HUNGARY FOR FUTURE USE BY ITS MEMBERS. FOR EMBASSY USE ONLY: GROUP ALSO PLANS TO CONTRACT TWO SPECIAL RESEARCH STUDIES: ONE ON POSSIBILITIES FOR U.S. FIRMS IN JOINT VENTURES IN THIRD COUNTRIES AND ONE ON THE EFFECTS FOR U.S. BUSINESS OF MANAGEMENT REFORM IN THE HUNGARIAN FOREIGN TRADE SYSTEM.

4. ONLY USG PARTICIPANT WAS DAS DOWNEY WHO GAVE 10 MINUTE INTRODUCTORY TALK AND ATTENDED NON-SUBSTANTIVE LUNCHEON. NO OTHER USG OR HUNGARIAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS WERE INVITED OR PERMITTED TO ATTEND ANY PORTION OF THE MEETING. DOWNEY'S OPENING REMARKS STRESSED GENERAL IMPROVEMENT IN TRADE RELATIONS, IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING MOMENTUM DESPITE TRADE ACT AND POSSIBILITIES FOR CHANGES IN LEGISLATION.

5. IN HIS LUNCHEON REMARKS, AMBASSADOR ESZTERGALYOS, WHO DID NOT ATTEND MEETING, MADE VERY GENERAL COMMENTS ON STATE OF BILATERAL TRADE.

6. LIST OF ATTENDEES POUCHED TO EMBASSY. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE160333
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: COM/BEWT/EE/MLVINE/BFC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 NA
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750236-0821
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197507104/baaaaoqu.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN COM
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAR 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <22 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971008
Subject: n/a
TAGS: BEXP, HU
To: BUDAPEST
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006